

Summer 6-15-2001

ENG 3009G-012

Miller

Eastern Illinois University

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30096-012
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English 3009

"Life is not possible without an opening toward the transcendent: in other words, human beings cannot live in chaos." From: The Sacred And The Profane, by Mircea Eliade.

In this course we will develop the thesis that all human conceptualization comes in and through the symbolic forms that we construct; that among these symbolic forms, myth holds an important place; and that, therefore, the terms "myth" and "untruth" are not synonymous. In fact, this summer we will ask the questions: "To what extent does our grasp of reality come to us in the form of our myths?"

Reading List

The speed with which we cover these materials will depend upon both the needs and the interests of the students in the class. The due dates of all the assignments will be announced at least two days before any class discussion or any quizzes over the material. In the case of longer works, more preparation time will be allowed. From time to time, additional texts will be made available in the form either of handouts, materials on reserve at the library, or in the lectures.

1. Gilgamesh, pp.11-44 . June 13
2. Genesis, I-III, pp. 45-53, and VI-IX, pp.53-57. June 14
3. The Book of Job, pp.69-86, July 15 and "A Masque of Reason," reserve desk, Booth Library, June 18
4. Essays "The Origin of Life," and "The Return of the Giant Wasps," by Wald and Eiseley June 19
5. The Odyssey, eight books (one-third) of the poem each day. June 20-June 22
6. Plato and Macchiavelli, pp.806-830 and 1702-1717, June 25 .
7. "Billy Budd" pp.734-804, June 26, and "Gimpel The Fool," reserve desk, Booth Library. June 27
8. In-class essay. June 28
9. Don Quixote, pp.1819-1955 (We will read half of the story for each day) June 29-July 2
10. Chaucer, "The Miller's Tale," pp.1578-1592, July 3

Additional reading: By July 2 you will have completed the novel Madame Bovary, Vol. 2 of your text.

No work missed during an unexcused absence may be made up.

The daily quizzes will be objective in nature and will account for 20% of your course grade.

The mid-term written essay will account for 25% of your course grade.

The final examination will account for 50% of your course grade.

The essays will be graded on the basis of two considerations only: the degree to which they display a close familiarity with the reading, and the degree to which they approximate standard English.